

3: Indiana U. S-4, 5 1955 RG4 Estonia RG4
Vepses

322 birch bark box, which was also made in their
415 presence, and eating them afterwards with
spoons made of the same material.

412 Both their tools and methods of work
are extremely primitive. In 1917-18 grinding
stones were still being used, some of them
made even of wood. There was not a single
churn in the whole territory, and butter was
[297] made with a whisk (härkin); there was no spinning
wheel, and thread was spun with the spindle.

[501] The Vepsian boats were punts hollowed out of
296 single logs and propelled by a single oar. Wash-
ing was done in a unique way: linens and
clothes were put into a vessel and pounded with
two wooden sticks. In the winter, a hollow
made in the ice served as the vessel. Of course,
only thick homespun cloth could stand this kind
of washing, and it grew even softer and suppler
after several washings. It is remarkable to
find such primitiveness so close to Leningrad
as the Vepsian areas are.

264 The Vepsians' eating habits are as primi-
tive as the rest of their life. Professor Kettunen
gives a description of their eating (p. 42): "We
had a common mushroom cup on the table in
which everybody, bathing of course their fingers,
seasoned their pancakes." Kettunen managed,
with certain difficulties, to get a cup for him-
self. But when curious villagers came during
the mealtime into the hut, Kettunen's special
cup attracted great attention. Finally an old
woman decided that he must be an "Old Believer."
These "Old Believers" were noted for having
special dishes for those who belonged to different